

John Lindley Higham Correspondence

Pen Name (Charles Frederick Higham)

John Higham, along with Barney Barnard, was one of the first Arizona contacts the McGees made when they began researching the Superstitions. Those of you familiar with the story will remember the book “***The story of Jacob Walzer Superstition Mountain and its Famed Dutchman's Lost Mine***” originally written by Higham that eventually came to be the property of Barney Barnard. This was the book that introduced Bernice to the Lost Dutchman Mine legend and sparked her interest in the Superstition Mountains. Jack and Bernice later stayed at the Bernard's home.

I was pronouncing Higham incorrectly. Greg Davis told me it should be pronounced **High** – **am** as opposed to Hig – ham. That was not unusual for me since I was also pronouncing Ely incorrectly.

From Tom Kollenborn's, “***A Ride Through Time***”, he gives the death date of Higham as August 26, 1963. He was about 78 years old. The letters in this collection were written only a few months before Higham died. Barney Barnard had died earlier in April 1963 and that may have led Bernice to contact Higham?

The McGee's impression of Higham is taken from one of Bernice's e-mails. “Greg probably knows of John Lindley Higham (Charles Frederick Higham). ***Brilliant man, in our estimation.***”

The letters do provide some insight into the man. He doesn't appear to lack confidence!

Enjoy,

Garry and Carol Cundiff

May 4, 2009



SEMPER VIRENS

John Lindley Higham R. A. M.

LINDLEY HALL
2206 WEST JACKSON STREET
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

June 30th 1963

Mr. and Mrs. Jack M. McFee,
4612 Media,
Fort Worth 15 Texas.

Kind Friends;

Your lengthy letter of June 19th received together with some photos which have no connection with what you are trying to find out I have just recently placed in the Archives of the Capitol for permanent keeping some 100 paintings and maps that were painted in and near the Superstition area for use in my books including the one claimed by the Barney Barnard who died recently and started one of the hottest contests among the followers of the Higham theory the Storm theory, and the Arnold theory and just who opened the pot that informed the world that the name of the Lost Dutchman was not Walz but von Walzer. There are now at Apache Junction two markers one calling the man Walz and another Jacob von Walzer.

For your information it was I that discovered through the assistance of Herman Petrasch who in 1940 wrote Mulford Windsor of the Archives of the Capitol that the burial records of the man called the Lost Dutchman were incorrect as to spelling and exact location. Authors like Storm, Arnold, and all the first authors of this story and picked up by several following authors who had not the slightest idea of the history of the man. This was also true of Barney Barnard who prior to meeting me thought Barry Storm was the Jesus Christ of the Lost Mine and so taught our friend Julius King of whom you now know. I knew Julius King owner of the King Ranch and his wife before he even bought the old Ben Woodward shack which was the nucleus of the King Ranch where today a business is conducted in guiding and misguiding starry eyed searchers of fantam and folly. This breed of young would be cow hands and old codgers from far off lands know nothing of the actual Arizona which they pretend to represent. They are in the show business. THAT IS WHY THEY COULD NOT TELL YOU WHERE THE CHARLEY WHITLOW RENCH STOOD.

A watercolor painting made by me in 1941 of the remains of the Whitlow Ranch and the corral and the well is now in the Archives of the Capitol. It is now completely with earth and covered to a depth of several feet as a dam was constructed across Queen Creek. This Ranch was a Spanish ranch that had been abandoned and was actually taken over by Charley Whitlow in 1875. It became a stage station on the route to Pinal City and the Silver King mine. A dozen or more men were killed here. Charley Whitlow killed at least men. The Walzer mine was not discovered until 1881. This ranch was one of first places where the news was broke loose. The other place was Florence the home of Wiesner the partner of Waltzer. The Dutchman on his historic trip into the mountains stayed the first night with Wiesner at the Whitlow ranch with his burros in the corral. His first stop in the mountains was at Lady Kavanaugh goat ranch on Whitlow Canyon. Lady Kavanaugh furnished the Whitlow ranch with goat milk. I have a painting of this goat ranch, These

modern informants from Quest ranches do not know where this Kavanaugh place is and know nothing of its history. They do not know the location of the ruins of the stone cabin and the second corral where the Dutchman and his partner stopped after leaving Kavanaughs. Naturnatively they do not know where the prospectors went from here. No body ever said they went up Randolph I dont even accuse Barney of saying this. Barney's biggest lie is about the Indians returning with squaws and papooses in 1942 and camping within sight of the B bad B and for three days the braves went back into the hills and when they came out they all quietly moved away. Several monthis later it said that the big shots from the Carlton Reservation purchased several high priced bulls paying with pure gold. Strange thing about this story is that I was at Barneys at this exact time painting Superstition Mountain and the only approach to the mountain was by The Palmer mine and it was not at work then.

The Marshall Inn at Apache Junction is closed. That was a wash out. Lost 75,000 in one year, more that John Mills of Phoenix lost as the Superstition as a farce. Now three law suits have been filed against Barney Barnard. On his deathbed he willed his entire estate to the young child he had by the young woman who had two children by a former husband. He got in Dutch with the True West magazine of Austin Texas, and thirdly with the Federal Government.

Your letter has so much in it that needs answering but which I will save for some futurer time. Your information about James Reevis is all wrong. James Addison Reevis was a streetcar conductor from St Louis and was a crook and served time for pretending to be a Spanish Baron. The old James Reeves lived as a hermit in the Superstition was killed by Jack Frazier and was no relation and never heard of the Arizonz Baron. There is no Herman Petrasch home in the Superstition Mts that could be pointed out to you by this modern informants. It is impossible for you to get a picture today of Herman's death house. There never was a wife of Herman, so he had no daughter. I know and have correspondence with his neice in Indiana. His sisters child. Rhinehardt Petrasch who was his brother committed suicide in Globe many years ago. I also have a painting of Herman in the Archives at the Capitol.

You were also given a ride (not on horses) about Silverlocke. I presume someone was referring to Silverlocke that found in 1916 \$16,000 gold in a saddlebag on the massacre grounds but none found before or since. Storm started this story. No verification of this story except the reference by others to Storms report. There is no Silverlocke house. He did not live in the mountains. He had no tunnel but was just a prospector a hanger on of Goldfield that was on its last legs then. Barney Barnard never saw Goldfield in its glory. Hewas a young man in France in World War I for several years thereafter an invalid in hospitals. He came to Arizona just ahead of the the CCC boys. They built the dam nad hepped to construct the rock work of Barney's house.

I dont beleive you saw Miner's Needle because if you passed this needle you would have to drop down into Coffee flat and out of the mountains through Barckleys lower ranch and then out upon the holiday. You could not have passed through Second Water ranch or First Water ranch because that would bring you out on the Apache Trail on the way to Apache Junction. I know every inch of the Superstition area and the mention of any sopt in that territory is like mentioning a street number. My map of the area is used by the Maricopa County Sherrif Office. Yes you are right, the ~~hieroglyphic~~ hieroglyphic tablet in Barney's booklet has been altered.

and is nothing like the original that I have but is like the reproduction of Storm's work. The drawing in Barney's book is the work of an artist of his acquaintance of old Goldfield and absolutely incorrect but Barney has written across it that that was Goldfield as he remembered it which is also incorrect as he never saw it when it was supposed to look like it. I have a painting of the ruins of Goldfield at the Artchives at the Capitol as they looked in 1941. It was about this time that Barney hauled wagon load upon wagon load of brick from these ruins and used them in his patio of B Bar B. All of the doors that became dividers between rooms at Barney's were also hauled over from old Goldfield. Apache Junction then was not much more than a filling station and a zoo under the handling of Jack Anderson. It was this Jack Anderson who sold the first Lost Dutchmen books of Charles Frederick Higham and the name of Wayne Ellsworth Barney Barnard was not even mentioned in it. This original booklet is multi-filmed in the Archives of the Capitol.

The old Black Queen mine was first mined by four Mormons and later made a part of Goldfield by Tex Richards and Ed Sullivan. This was before the days of George Young a former Mayor of Phoenix. It was in the time of the Mormons that the old Dutchman took Wiesner from Florence and went to the Black Queen. He never owned the Black Queen. In fact he never owned any mine outright.

I love to listen to stories of the Dutchman's Route by those who know nothing about it because I can trip them up before they get started. Most of the present day names in the Superstitions were never heard of by Walzer. He never met or knew anybody as La Barge, or Charliesbois, Music canyon, Minor needle, Williwow canyon, Boulder canyon, Peralta canyon, Apache Junction, or Florence Junction. or Kings ranch or Rancho del Superstition. In fact I am sure that the old Dutchman never heard of Palo Verde Studio. But I have the only tintype photo of Jacob von Waltzer ever taken in this country, in 1864 in Jersey City, N.J. I bet you are confused now, but is what makes it interesting.

Yours trully,
JOHN LINBLEY HIGHAM R.A.M.



SEMPER VIRENS

John Lindley Higham R. A. M.

#2

LINDLEY HALL
2206 WEST JACKSON STREET
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

July 11 th., 1963.

Mrs. Bernice McGee,
4612 Merida
Fort Worth Texas 76115.

My dear Mrs. McGee;

I returned from the Archives of the Capitol the other day and among much mail that I receive was another letter from you which saddens me some as I know what disappointment means especially in historical and what is supposed to be facts and not fiction. It seems that Apache Jct. is completely composed of offset type of cheap liars made so because they themselves have also been taken. They have actually created characters to further the onehorse business of and innocent and actual story of an ordinary man who found a gold mine and made no effort to build it up. Every sensational and fiction minded writer jumped on a simple little story by Dane Coolidge in the early 1900's only a few years after he had written the story. And the strange thing about it is that I have known every damn one of them and they have known me and there is not a rich one among them. The Sheriff's Office had Barry Storm in the Insane Hospital and eventually run him out of town.

Barney Barnard was for years closely watched by the Pinal County Sheriff. He was a peculiar sort of human being and had he not been a War Veteran he would never have been known as his War check was the only thing he had. He had a talent and was a big country boy and could play a guitar and sing. That is the whole story of Barney Barnard who before going to the front was an auctioneer in South Dakota.

I was sitting in the patio of Barney and it was absolutely nothing but a start of western meeting place for characters like myself schooled in the art dives of New York St Louis and Chicago. You see I never saw Arizona till 1939. I never saw Barney till 1941. Then there drove up in a pick up Julius King and Lucy looking for a place to buy in the wild west to start a resort. They were both green as goards but had an idea, fresh from the East. Barney and I drove them over to Ben Woodward. Who was Ben Woodward, no body knows he was a prospector, Barney and I got a kick out of Ben showing King a bottle of gold dust....we had seen it many times. It was brass shavings he had saved from his work bench. He was a half... carpenter also. That was the start of King's Ranch. While the Kings made good hundreds went broke during the same time.

Enclosed is one of my Spotlite stories about Tex Barkley which is one of three hundred that were carried over the air for ten years. You asked how I obtained my information. That was all I did was look for information. Information was secured through four trips to Europe and traveling in out of the way places in this country. I spent money as fast as I got it. But money came to me from strange places. I have been married 4 times.

My father was not a rich man but was wealthy and sent me to Cornell and later to Oxford. Then I attended the Art Institute of Chicago and finally the Gem City Business College of Quincy Illinois. I have done everything. Barney would sit up until four oclock in the morning just to talk to me. Other people would too. Barney was as you know every emotional and the night that disclosed to Barney that I had ran on to proof that the old Dutchman was in reality Jacob von Walzer we drove up to Apache Junction and both got drunk. He took Jack Anderson to one side and told him that I had more information about the Lost Dutchman Gold Mine ~~that~~ than Joe Smith had about Mormonism....Jack Anderson was a Mormon.

Jack Anderson later became nothing less than enemy of Barney and wanted me to sue him. Apache Junction was the first place where my book went on sale and the first 5000 were sold in less than a year. Actually I have made more money in the lon run than Barney did. My book was sold widely in England and Germany.

Tex Barckley had nothing to do with the King Ranch nor dd he own the Woodward property. Barckley was a War Veteran the same as Barnard and so was Charlie Weeks and all of them filed on 160 acre tracts. Barkley ran ~~acattle~~ on thousands of Superstition acres without paying anything for it until the Taylor Grazing Act came into effect. Charlie Weeks did the same thing. Barney Barnard never ran any cattle anywhere. He had no cattle ranch and was not ~~able~~ able to ride a cattle horse. Charlie Whitlow had no ranch and before he took over the Spanish house and corral on the Queen Creek road on the way to Pinal City he was a ferryman at Maryville a Mormon settlement where he had a fight with the Mormons. Four of the prospectors at Goldfield were Mormons from Maryville. Lady Kavanaugh squatted on another old Spanash place and her place was a regular stopping place of Walzer, before he and Wisener made their memorial find. This proves that she was there before 1881 the date of the finding of the Lost Dutchman. Whitlow settled where he hadv his famous Stage Station in 1875/

The two guides you mention are absolutely unknown to me and I'll bet you that neither of them ever heard of me. There is not a genuine guide known to the old timeers in that territory at the Kings ranch or any of the reser-
thersby and who have any knowledge of actual legends of the Superstition⁴⁸ of a fictional or fact nature. None of them are educated men. I can make a fool out of any of them. There is less than a half s dozen men now employ in the State departments of area of Superstition or Apache Junction who are old enough or well versed enough to be competent guides. MY MAP of the area is used officially by the Maricopa and Pinal authorities. The stories of Barney helping to bring out bodies of shot prospectors was a laughing stock of all Sheriff deputies. In the first place he was physical unable to do so and secondly never saw any of the places mentioned.

Am sorry you did not know of my paintings in the State Library. Many of these would answer many of your questions. Hundreds of manuscripts are now there now. It is the purpose of the Library to set aside a room for all of this material. I also propose the leaving to the Archives ~~my~~ studio as a museum for prosterity. For your information I do nothing anymore except what I want to do. Mr. Joe Small of Austin Texas, publisher of True West magazine, is a friend of this writer. Well goodbye for this time. How confused are you now.

JOHN LINDLEY HIGHAM.

Abandoned Spanish houses and small time ranches were many in this part of the country at that time. The Whitlow ranche was one of them. It had one of the largest and most complete stone corrals in that part of the country. Why it was abandoned no one knows and Whitlow did not care, as he was interested in a place to establish a stage station. Back in the mountains were many of these and Walzer passed several on his way to his mine and used their corrals. Remember that the Lost Dutchman came into existence in 1881 but the Silver King was in operation as early as 1873 and several others in the vicinity of Globe. The Military Trail was established in 1875 and the Government soldiers were making regular trips through the mountains and passed these old abandoned houses all Spanish. The Spanish massacre occurred in 1848 and the Lost Dutchman was one of the Spanish mines left by the Spanish and found 33 years later.

The ranches like Martins and others along that stretch near Whitlows are in fact recent parts of the picture. The old Reavis ranch and Nortons and others were right where they were when the Dutchman went into the mountains. There was no Superior then or Miami and Pinal City was the result of the Silver King and the reason of Whitlow squatting there. And there was no Apache Junction or Florence Junction. Apache Junction was not established until 1921. Barney had not appeared on the scene. He first in the early thirties took out a 100 acre veterans homestead on the new Florence highway and built a small shack where he lived with a young half Spanish and half Indian woman who died according to Banard. There is no proof of this. Later this shack burned down and Barney traveled back East in a trailer and returned in a year or so and squatted on a waterhole near the mountain where he with the aid of the CCC camp boys put up the beginning of his B-B place. Several years later he took advantage of the Government exchange act and traded in his homestead on the highway for a deed to the B*B RANCH. The rest of Barney you know. He is now dead.

You wonder how I traveled in the mountains. First the Superstitions is only 40 acres square. I had a modern red panel truck with paintings of the mountains on it. I made three trips to New York and two to the Pacific coast. I would circle the Superstitions and drive in as far as I could go. Then I set out on foot. I actually worked this way for four years on my Lost Dutchman Map. I gathered evidence from 1941 to 1946 when I published my book. I spent weeks in New York City interviewing the living relatives of Jacob von Walzer where I obtained a tintype photo of him taken in Jersey City. The relatives are wealthy and do not care about publicity. The one quarter of a million in gold of this Dutchman is like chicken feed to these people. We are sworn to secrecy and their identity will never be disclosed by me. Jacob never corresponded with them after his coming West but he did write to his mother in Germany but living relatives there are just as secret as those in New York. I know because I have been there too. One of these relatives is now in this country.

The Lost Dutchman was never so called during his lifetime. The first mention of his ever having a lost mine was after his death. His 40 acres of land was not sold for 16 years later. Only a very few people knew where he was buried among them the Petrasch family because he was buried in their burial lot. Herman Petrasch searched for years to try and patch together what Jacob tried to explain to these two young men how to get to it. They afterwards thought he was only fooling them. When evidence later verified the gold shipments via the Well Fargo EX. CO., it caused a stir and that stir has not ceased yet. It is hard to deny facts when they stare you in the face, and it is none of your business why the old Dutchman did as he did. He probably would not agree with you on many things. But it is a good story don't you think.

I have great fun with folks who button hole at the Archives almost every day. They ask such foolish questions of me as to why the crazy old fool would not tell anybody where such a rich mine was. They got mad at me because he didnt tell them that is the truth of the matter. And then they just go off their rocker when I tell them he was perfectly within his right and I wouldnt tell them either.

I have a friend a prominent one at that who lives England and we have been in correspondence for years. He says he is coming to the States maybe this winter and that he will give me a certified check for \$25000 dollars if I will only show him the canyon that the mine is in. I told him to come along but that I did not want his money as long as he has a an extra flask or two and then I will show him not one canyon but three all of which fix the discriptions. Each one of these canyons runs due north and south. each one has a stone house in it. each one has a cave access from a dump. each one can be seen from the Military Trail. And each one is within sight of the Needle. Take your pick. Thats the way I had to.

It was nice hearing from you So long, The old prospector

JOHN LINDLEY HIGHAM R.A.M.

